

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

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R 290014Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, CASC (PROUTY, GORDON K.)

SUBJECT: SIEZURE OF OFFICIAL PASSPORT OF USAID OFFICER

REF: LAGOS 8485

1. JULY 27, AMBASSADOR SANU RAISED PROUTY CASE WITH AF/W DIRECTOR AND ASKED IF WE HAD ANY RECENT NEWS. WE REPLIED THAT AS FAR AS WE WERE AWARE PROUTY'S PASSPORT HAD NOT BEEN RETURNED DESPITE REPRESENTATIONS BY THE EMBASSY. WE NOTED THE CONCERN WITH WHICH WE VIEWED THE CASE AND REVIEWED THE HISTORY BRIEFLY FOR SANU. SANU DID NOT DISPUTE ANY OF THE FACTS WE CITED BUT COMMENTED THAT DODAN BARRACKS WAS A MILITARY AREA IN WHICH SECURITY WAS TIGHT. SANU ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT THE POLICE WERE BEING MORE DIFFICULT THAN USUAL BECAUSE AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL, APPARENTLY AT THE TIME THAT PROUTY WAS ARRESTED, THREATENED THE POLICE BY SAYING THAT IF INCIDENTS OF THIS SORT CONTINUED A NIGERIAN DIPLOMAT WOULD BE EXPELLED FROM WASHINGTON IN RETALIATION. SANU SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT THE POLICE HAD REPLIED "GO AHEAD" OR WORDS TO THAT EFFECT. WE SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME WE HAD HEARD OF ANY SUCH

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THREAT, THAT IT SOUNDED HIGHLY IMPROBABLE, AND THAT EVEN

IF "THREAT" HAD BEEN MADE WHOEVER HAD MADE IT HAD ACTED
WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS AND IN AN IRRESPONSIBLE FASHION.

SANU SAID HE HAD NO FURTHER DETAILS, BUT THAT HE HAD
BEEN TOLD IF THE THREAT HAD NOT BEEN MADE THE POLICE
WOULD HAVE LET PROUTY OFF WITH A REPRIMAND. SANU
CONCLUDED THAT HE THOUGHT THE CASE WOULD BE RESOLVED
SATISFACTORILY IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. WE THANKED SANU
FOR HIS INTEREST IN THE CASE, AND SAID WE HOPED THIS
CASE COULD SOON BE CLEARED UP.

2. CAN EMBASSY SHED ANY LIGHT ON STORY OF "THREAT"?

KISSINGER

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